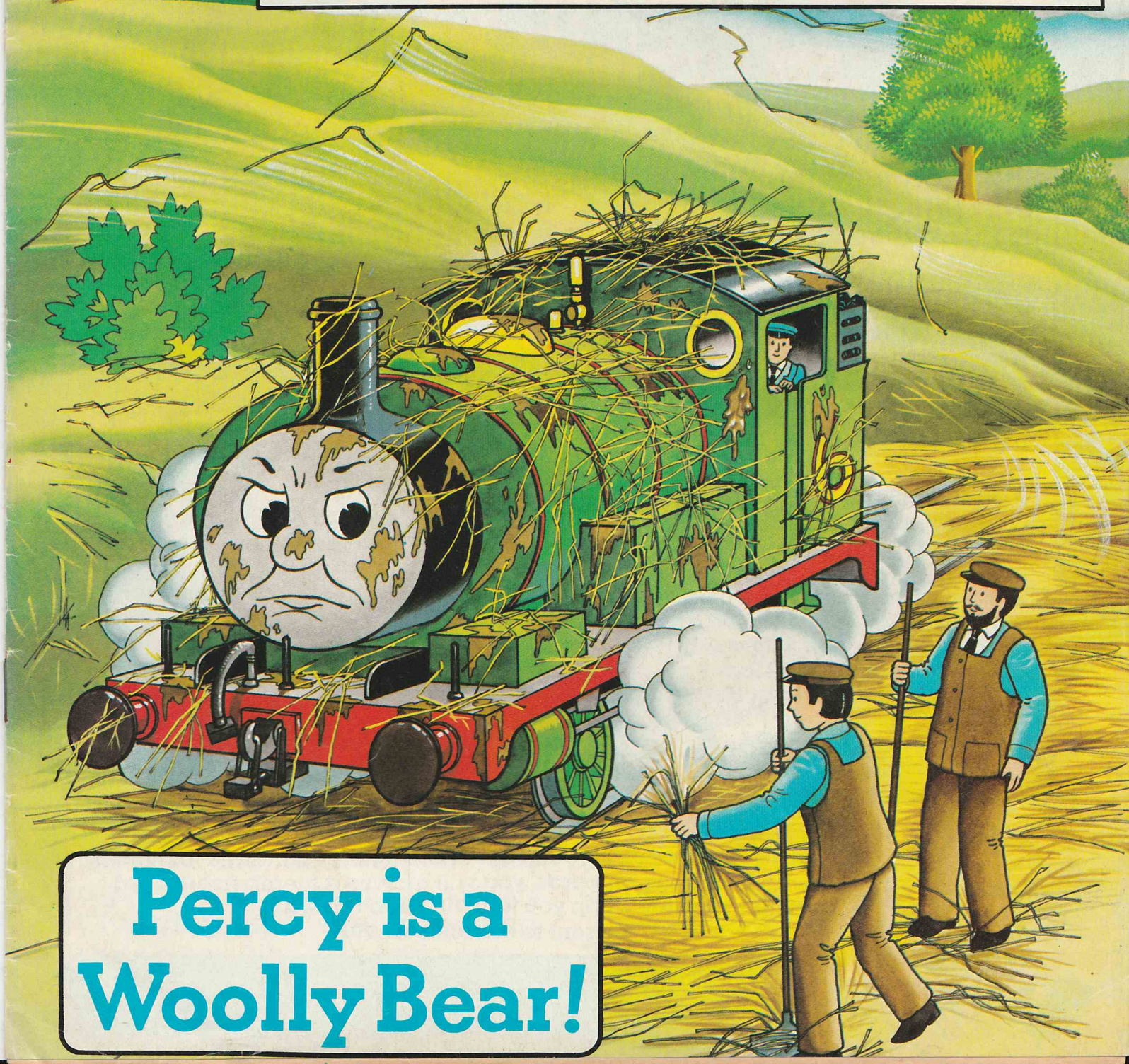
© William Heinemann Ltd 1988
© Britt Allcroft (Thomas) Ltd 1988
© William Heinemann Ltd 1984, 1986
© Britt Allcroft (Thomas) Ltd 1984, 1986

MARVEL

6th Aug. 1988
No. 21 38p

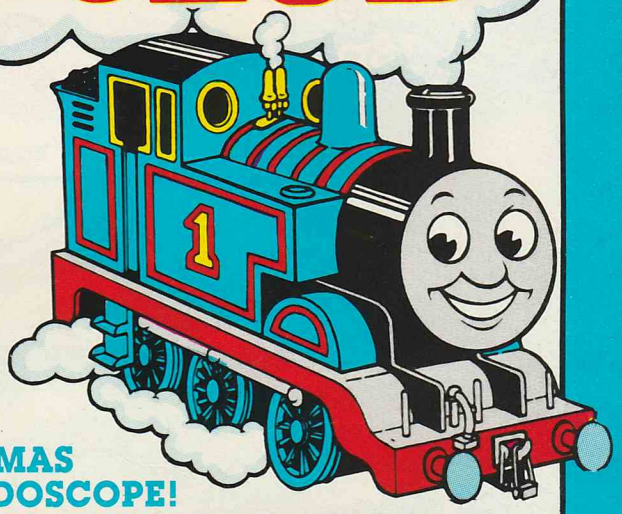
THOMAS THE TANK ENGINE & FRIENDS

Based on The Railway Series by The Rev. W. Awdry.



Percy is a Woolly Bear!

THE THOMAS CLUB PAGE!



Peep! Peep! There are two of your favourite stories about Percy in this issue, and by the end of each story he looks very different from the Percy we know! Peep! Peep!

EVERY ISSUE!

You can be sure of your copy of **Thomas the Tank Engine & Friends** every fortnight by taking out a year's subscription and having it sent **straight to your home!** You will automatically become a member of the **Thomas Club** too, and will receive your splendid **Club Pack!** Turn to page 18 for **details!**

ANOTHER WAY!

Here's another way to join our Club if you do not wish to subscribe to **Thomas the Tank Engine & Friends:** collect 3 tokens like the one at the bottom of the page. Send one **yellow** one, one **red** one and one **green** one, together with a self-addressed envelope (23cm × 16cm) complete with an 18p stamp, to: *The Thomas Club (Tokens), Marvel Comics, 13/15 Arundel Street, London WC2.*

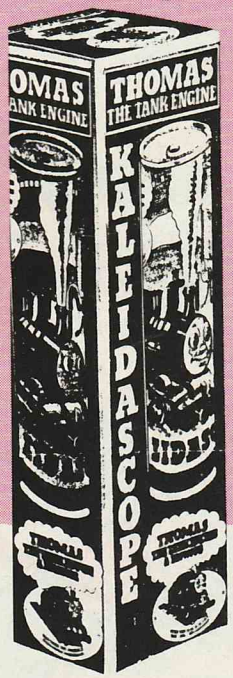
Please allow 28 days for delivery.

A THOMAS KALEIDOSCOPE!

Kaleidoscopes make beautiful patterns. Can you make a pattern using just 3 colours – red, yellow and blue? They're Thomas's colours!

The senders of the first **10** patterns we receive will win a splendid **Thomas Kaleidoscope** from *R F Development Co. Ltd.*

Send your patterns, together with your name, age and address, to: *Thomas Patterns, Island of Sodor, c/o Marvel Comics, 13/15 Arundel St., London WC2.*



MURAL PAGES!

What is flying high in this issue? Turn to our centre pages!

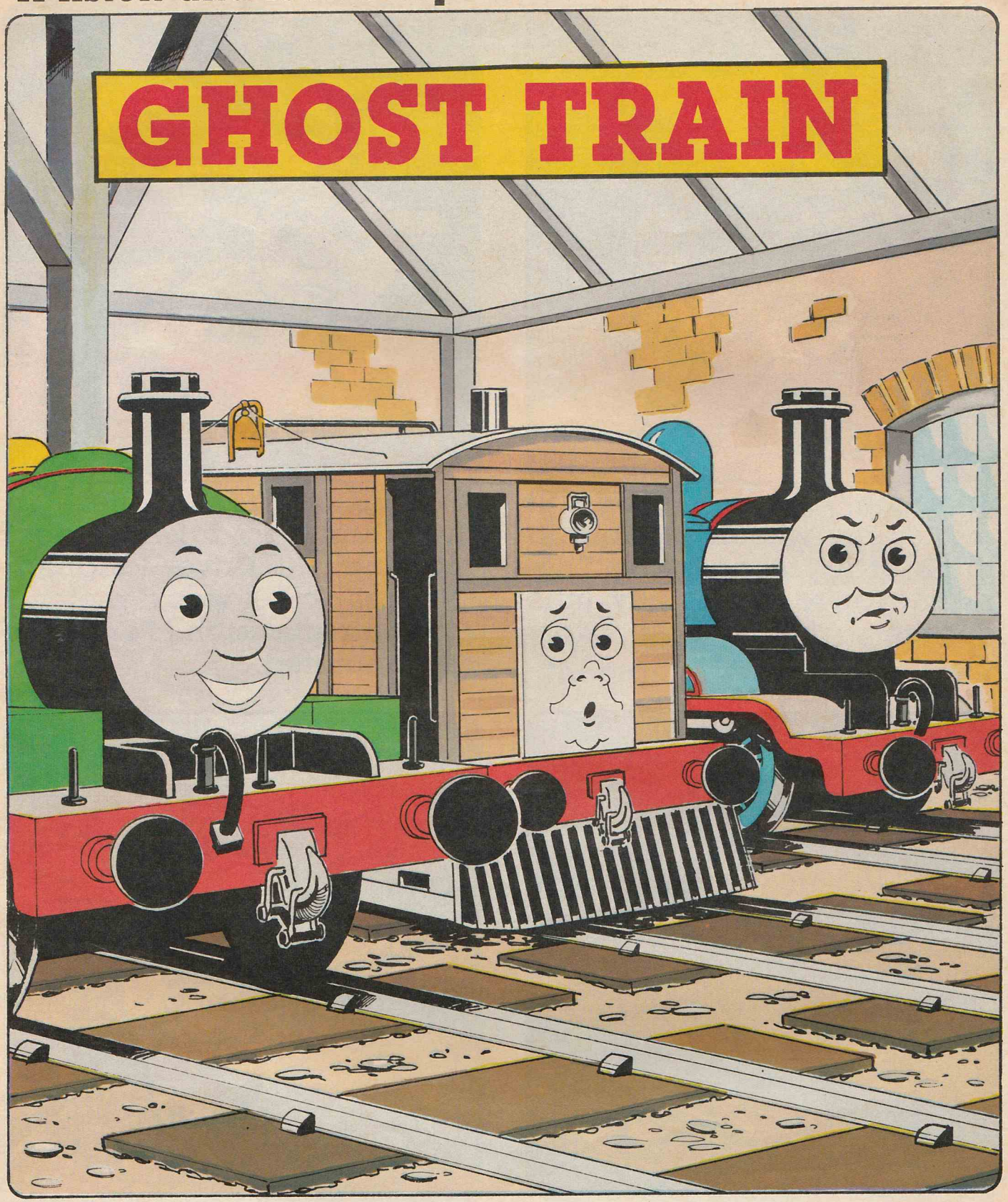
LAST CHANCE!

This is your **last chance** to receive a Club Pack in exchange for **tokens!** From our next issue onwards, you will receive a membership card and number **only** when you join our Club this way. Club Packs will be sent to subscribers only.

THOMAS TOKEN

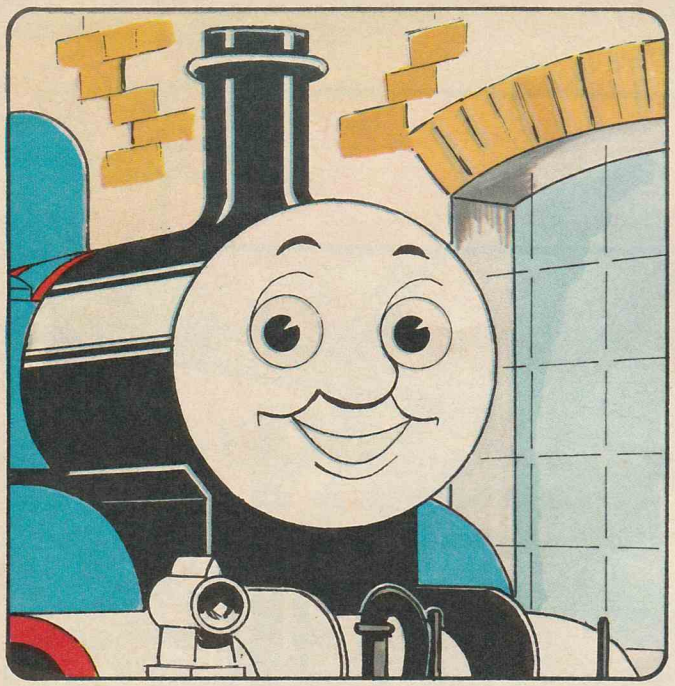
THOMAS THE TANK ENGINE & FRIENDS is published fortnightly by MARVEL COMICS LTD. a New World Entertainment Company. 13/15 Arundel Street. London WC2R 3ED. ALL THOMAS THE TANK ENGINE & FRIENDS material copyright © William Heinemann Limited 1988 copyright © Britt Allcroft (Thomas) Limited 1988. All rights reserved. No similarity between any names, characters, persons and or institutions in this magazine with those of any living or dead person or institution is intended and any such similarity which may exist is purely coincidental. Printed in England. Distributed by Comag.

A listen and look story!

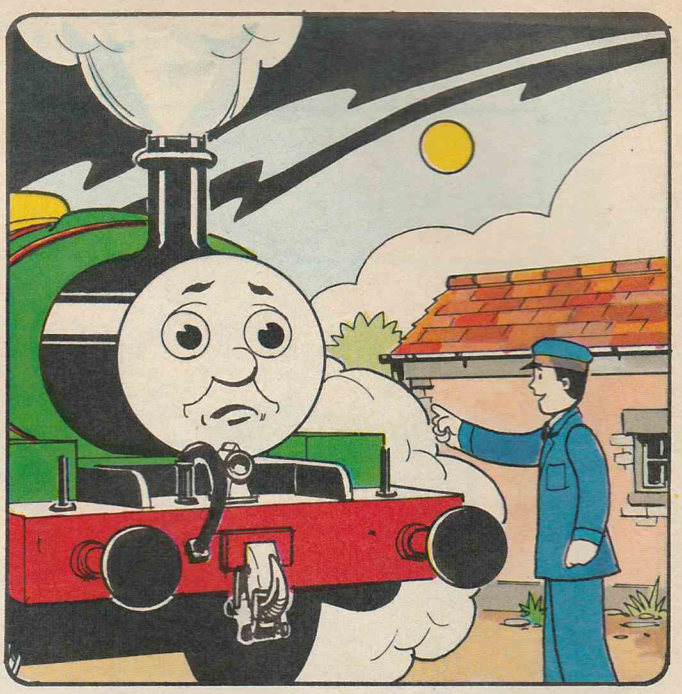


1. " . . . And every year on the date of the accident it runs again as a warning to others plunging into the gap, and shrieking like a lost soul," Percy told Thomas and Toby.

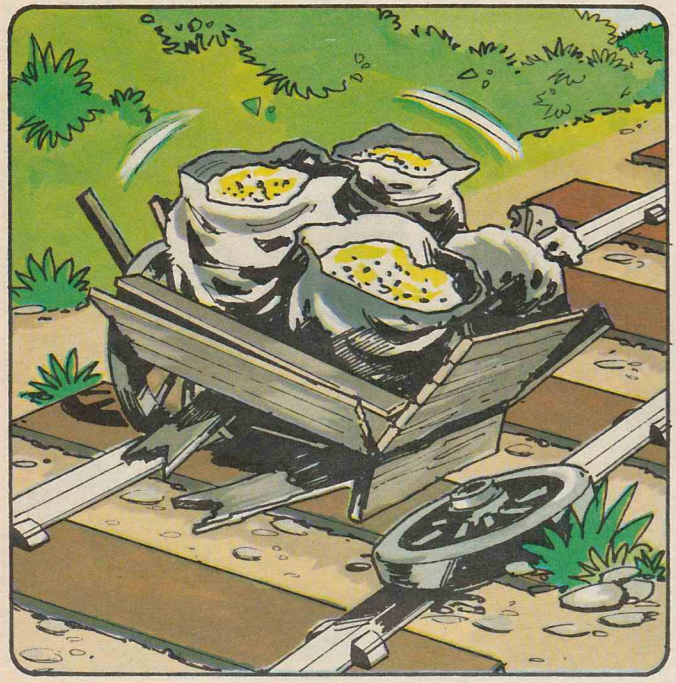
2. "What **are** you talking about?" asked Thomas. "The **Ghost Train**," said Percy. "Driver saw it last night." "Where?" asked Toby. "He didn't say," said Percy.



3. "Oooh," Percy sighed. "It makes my wheels wobble to think of it!" "Pooh!" said Thomas. "You're just a silly little engine. That ghost story doesn't scare me."

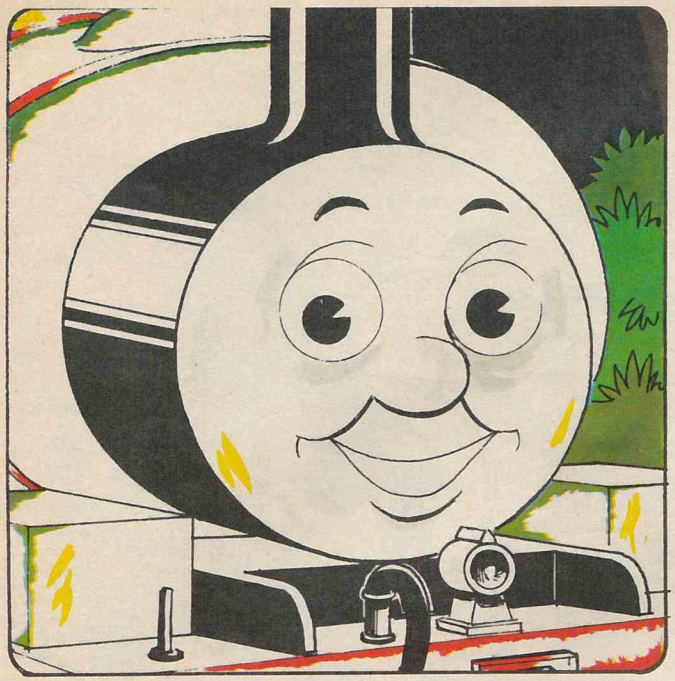


4. "Thomas didn't believe in the ghost," said Percy, next morning. His Driver laughed, "Neither do I. It was a pretend ghost on television." Percy **was** disappointed.

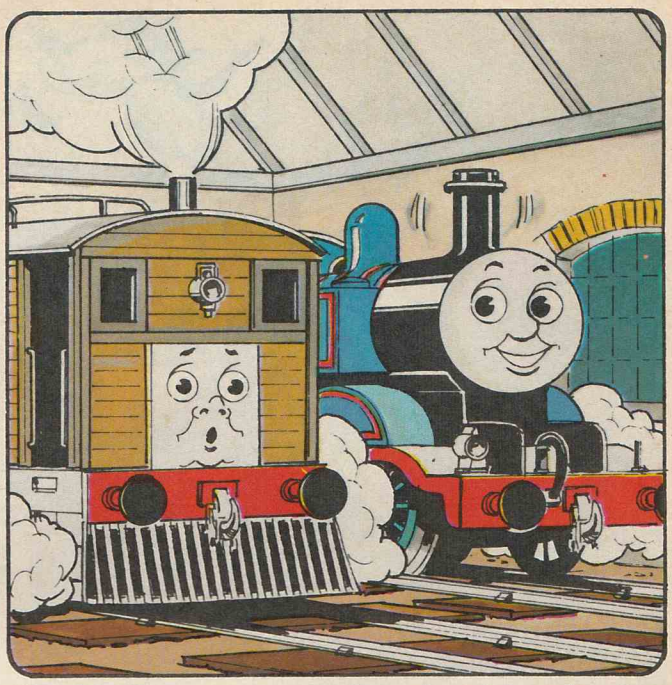


5. That evening Percy was returning from the harbour. He knew where he was, even in the dark: at Crowe's Farm Crossing. But oh! A broken cartload of lime lay ahead!

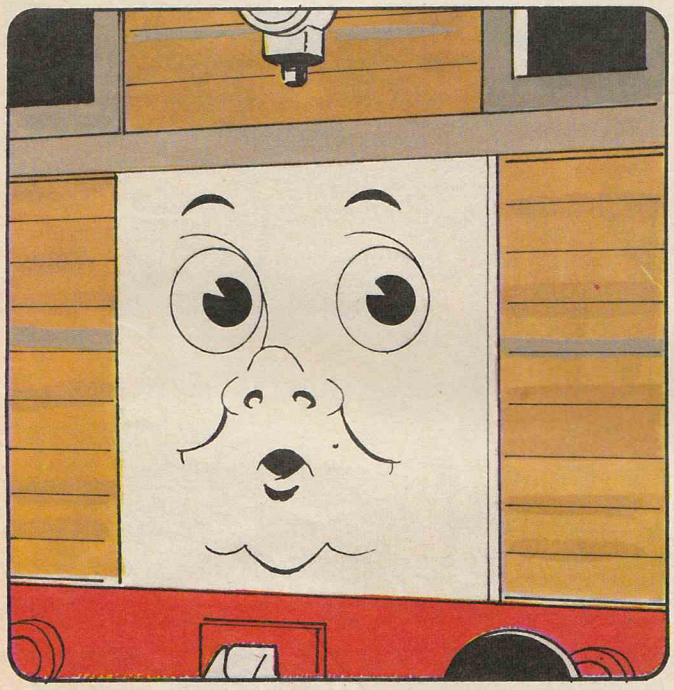
6. Sam, the farmer, had just gone for help. **Crash!** Percy broke the cart to smithereens! Lime flew everywhere. Poor Percy puffed quickly to the next signal box.



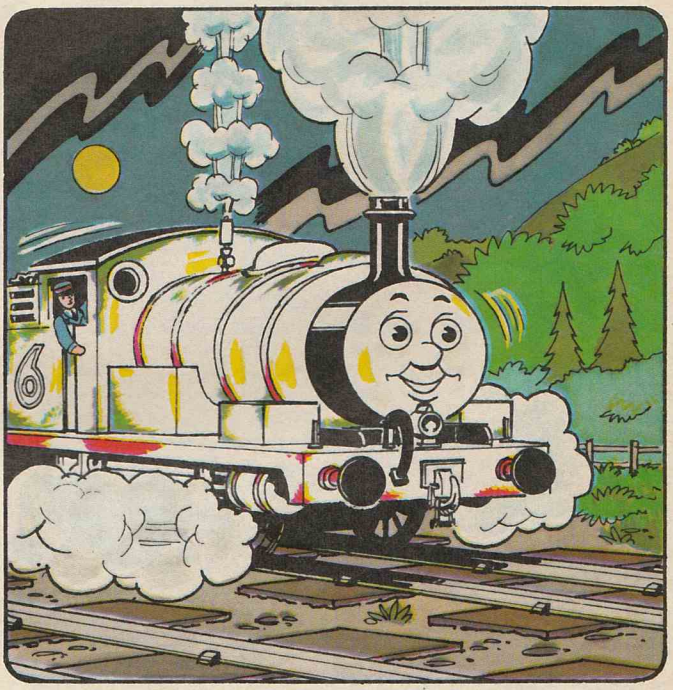
7. "I'll see to the cart," said the signalman. "But you'd better clean up Percy. He looks like a ghost!" Percy chuckled. "Let's pretend I **am** a ghost and scare Thomas!"



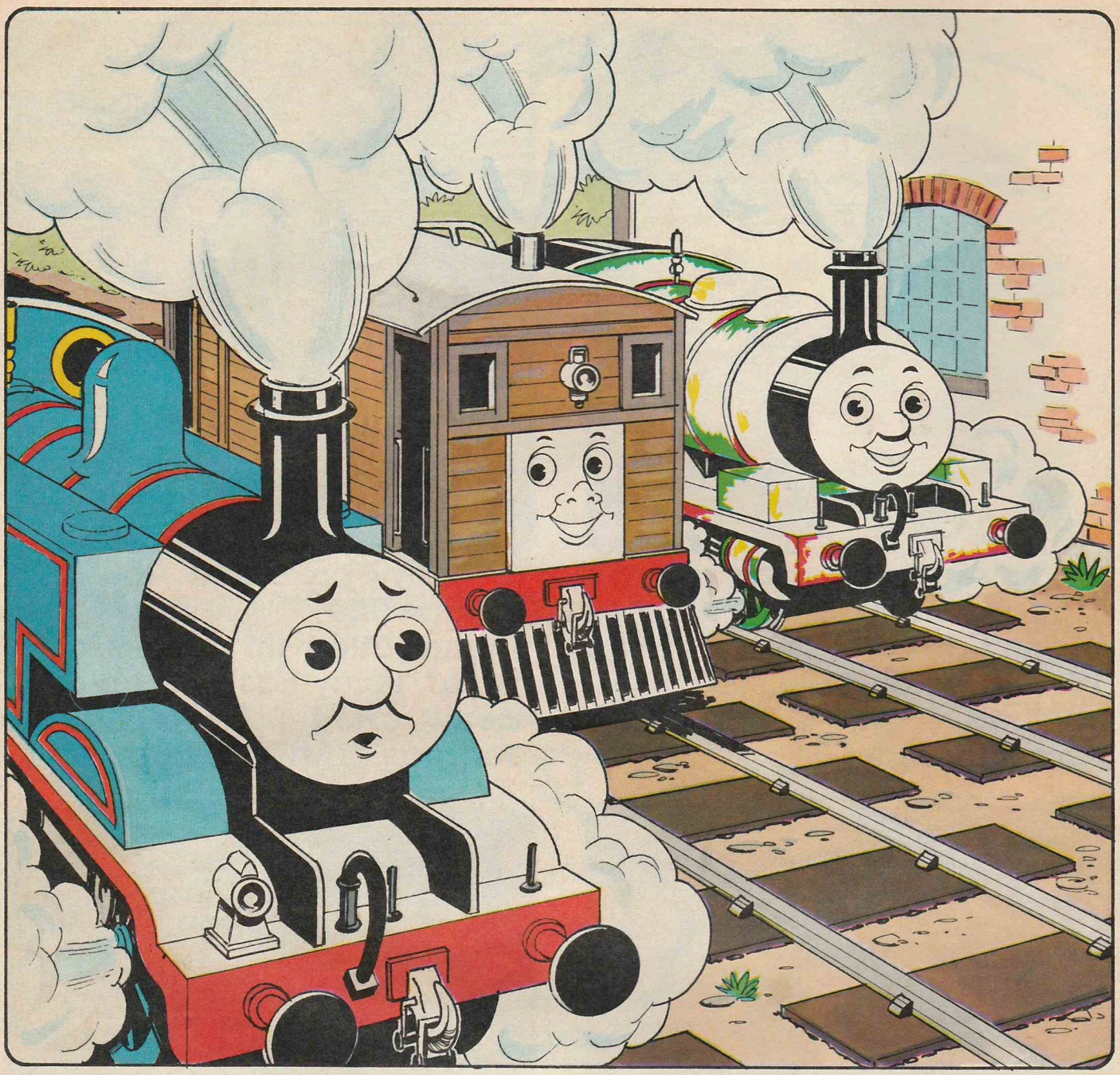
8. Toby promised to help. Meanwhile Thomas was being 'oiled up' for his night train. "Percy has had an accident!" cried Toby. "Oh!" said Thomas. "I will be late now."



9. "No, they've cleared the line for you," said Toby. "But guess what... I've just seen what looked like Percy's **ghost!** It s-said it w-was c-coming here t-to **warn** us!"



10. "Pooh! Who cares?" said Thomas. "Don't be frightened Toby. I'll look after you." "Peeeeeeep! wailed Percy spookily. "Peeeep! Pip! Pip! Peeeep! Let me in! Let me in!"



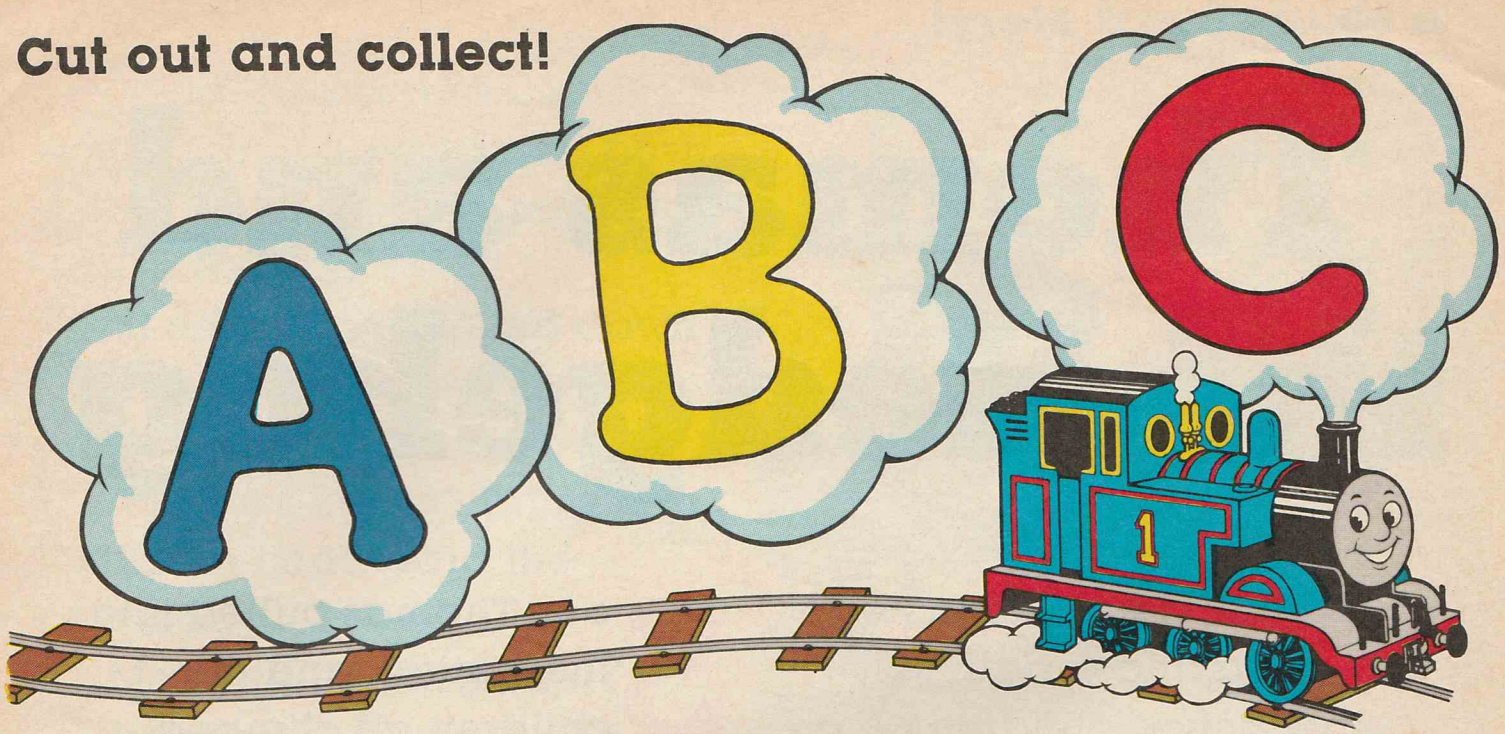
11. "No," said Thomas. "Not by the smoke of my chimney chim chim!" "Then I'll huff and I'll puff and I'll break your door in!" wailed Percy eerily. "Er, oh dear!" exclaimed Thomas nervously. "It's getting late! I-I'd no idea! I must fetch Annie and Clarabel!" He hurried away and did not return until morning. "Where **have** you been?" asked Toby.

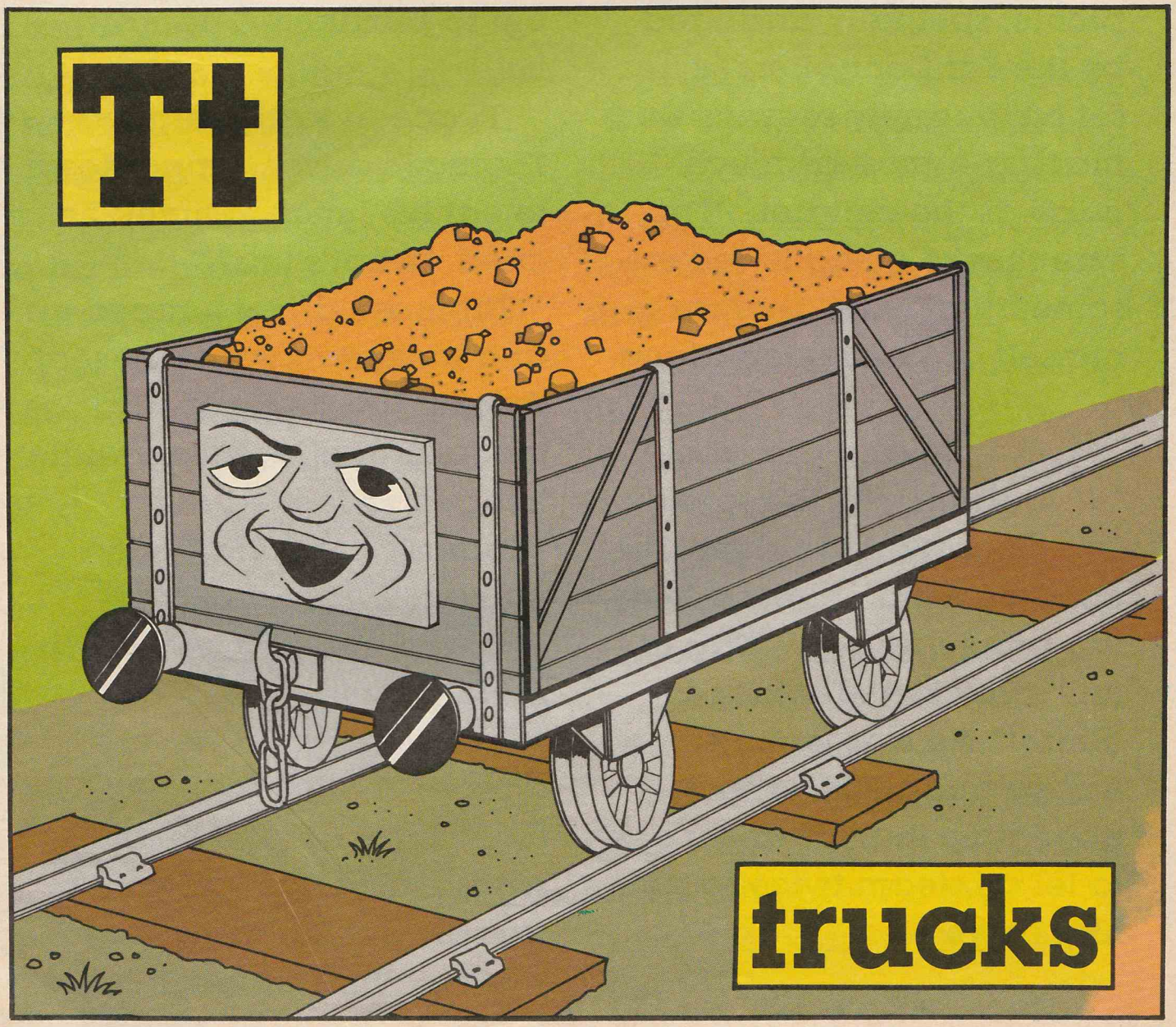
12. "Ah, well," said Thomas. "I knew you'd be worried about Percy, and I, er . . . didn't like to intrude. Sorry. I can't stop . . . Got to see a coach about a train." Thomas hurried off again. Percy had heard everything. "Well," he said. "What was all that about?" "Anyone would think," chuckled Toby, "that our Thomas had seen a ghost!"

THE END

In our next issue: Repairs and delays!

Cut out and collect!





A read-aloud story!

Thomas and the Hedgehog

One day, Thomas was taking a party of schoolchildren on a picnic, specially arranged by the Fat Controller. As he set off, a family of swifts were making almost as much noise as the children. "I'm sure they're trying to tell me something!" said Thomas to himself as he chuffed along.

Annie and Clarabel rang with the sound of excited laughter. The children were enjoying their trip on the railway. "This is fun!" chuckled Thomas to himself. He was feeling happy and making such good time that his driver had to let off steam twice to slow him down.

Soon Thomas pulled into the station, and the children all climbed out to picnic in a nearby field.

"Peace at last!" laughed Thomas's driver, sitting down to eat his lunch. "Ouch!" he cried. "What's this?"

Thomas's driver jumped up and looked down at his seat. From under a pile of oily rags the face of a frightened little hedgehog looked out. Thomas's driver carefully picked up the prickly creature and climbed down on to the platform.

"Cinders and ashes!" gasped Thomas when he saw the hedgehog. "I think the swifts must have known he was there. That's why they were making so much noise!"

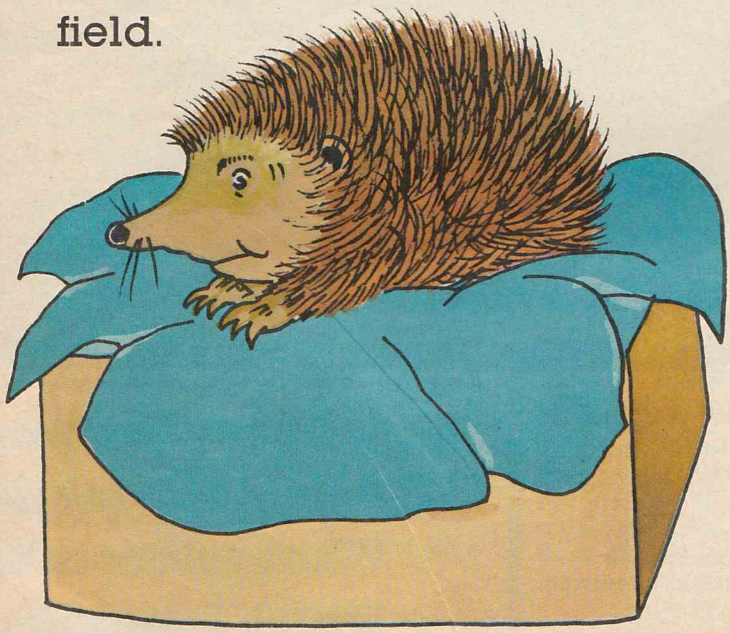
The guard and the fireman wondered how the hedgehog came to be in the cab.

"It could have rolled down a bank," suggested the guard.

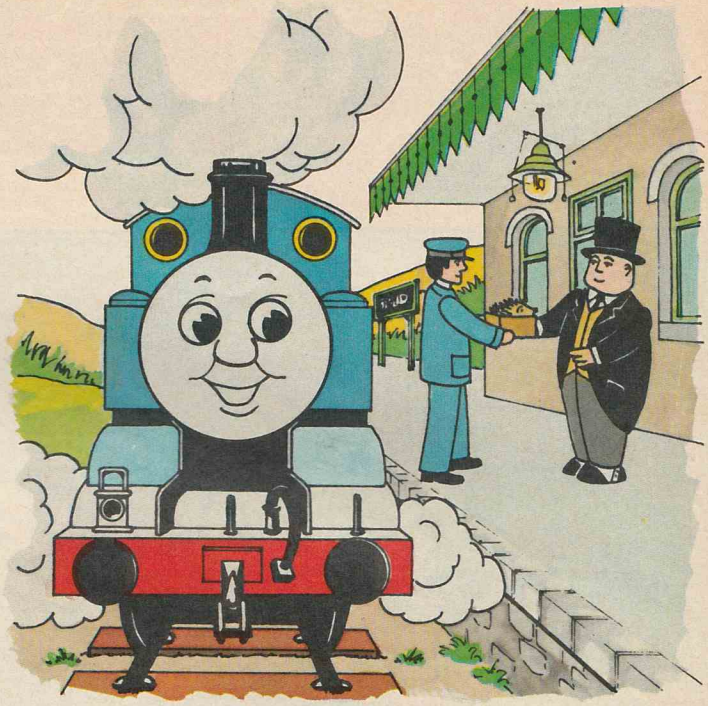
"I'm sure I didn't bring it in with the coal," said the fireman.

Meanwhile, Thomas's driver found a small cardboard box and made a cosy bed in it with his jacket. Then he lowered the hedgehog inside and placed the box in Thomas's cab next to his firebox.

"He'll be warm there until we get back!" chuckled Thomas, as the childen began to return from the field.



hedgehog



Back at the station, they were met by the Fat Controller. Thomas's driver showed him the baby hegehog. "Upon my soul!" he said. "Whatever next?"

Thomas's driver opened his lunch box and took out a bottle of milk. He poured some on to a saucer and placed it on the platform. The hegehog scuttled up to it and began lapping greedily. Up above, the swifts, were twittering merrily.

"Well done!" said the Fat Controller." I like to see that the wildlife around my railway is being well looked after."

THE END

Flying high

How many kites can you see?

How many balloons?

Which engine is puffing by?

What number is he?

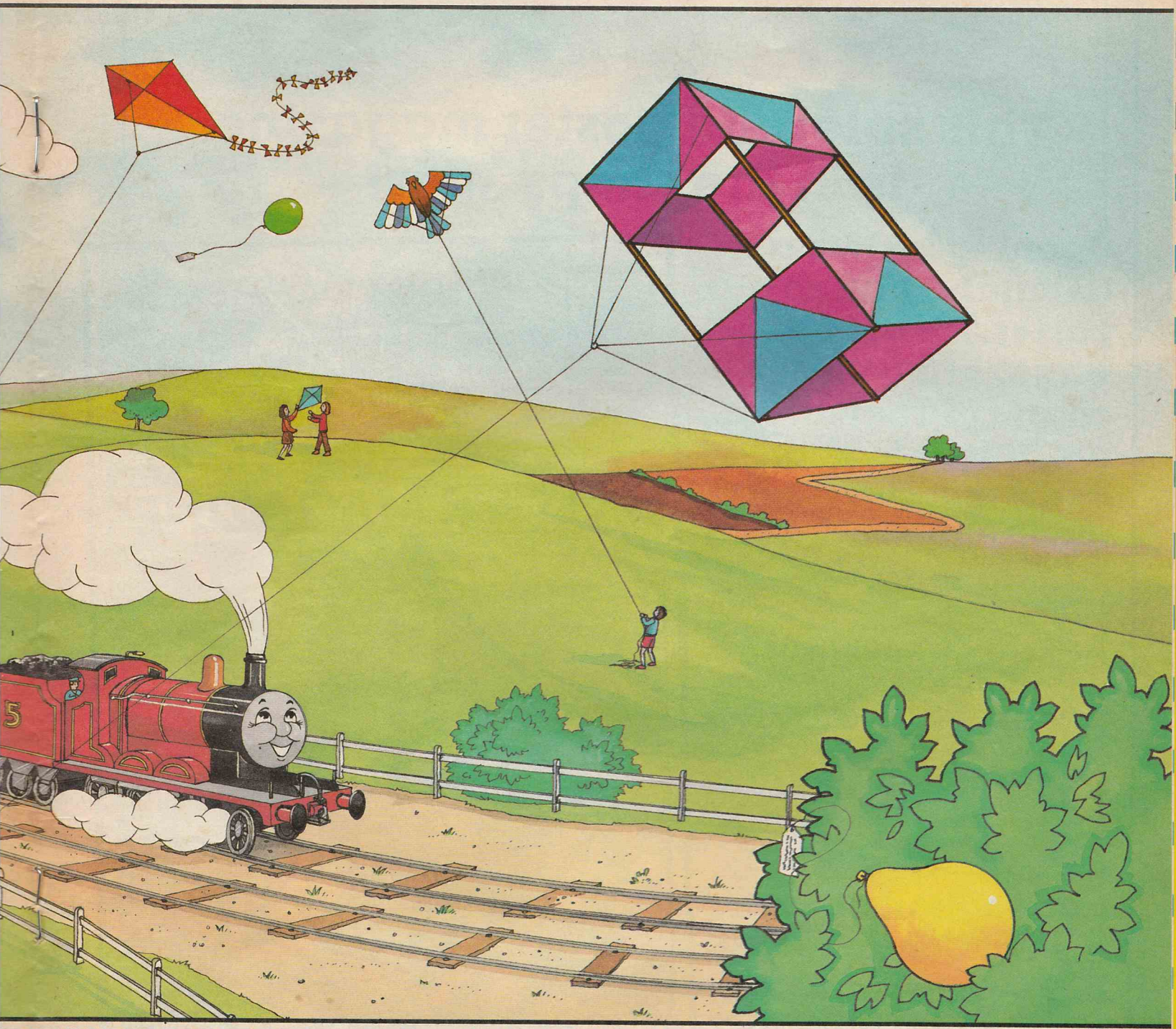
Is he pulling any carr

Point to Harold the he

What colour is the kit

Which kite do you lik

h!



y carriages?
he helicopter!
e kite in the tree?
u like best?

Note for parents

This page is designed to form part of a colourful mural for your child's bedroom, playgroup or classroom. After you have finished reading the magazine with your child, remove this part of the centrespread by cutting along the dotted line. There is a 'mural page' in every issue of **Thomas the Tank Engine & Friends**. Why not collect each one and watch Thomas and his friends puff all round the room?

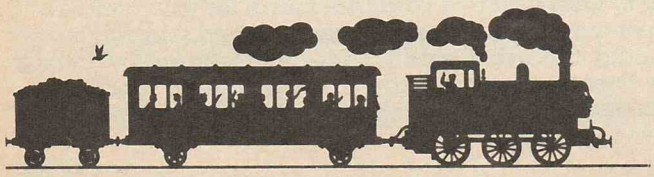
Next: Below the storm!

HEARD THE NEWS?

This splendid poster magazine is in the shops now!

Opening up into a delightful, full colour poster, it's the perfect way to bring the charm of Thomas and his friends to your bedroom, classroom, playgroup – even your kitchen!

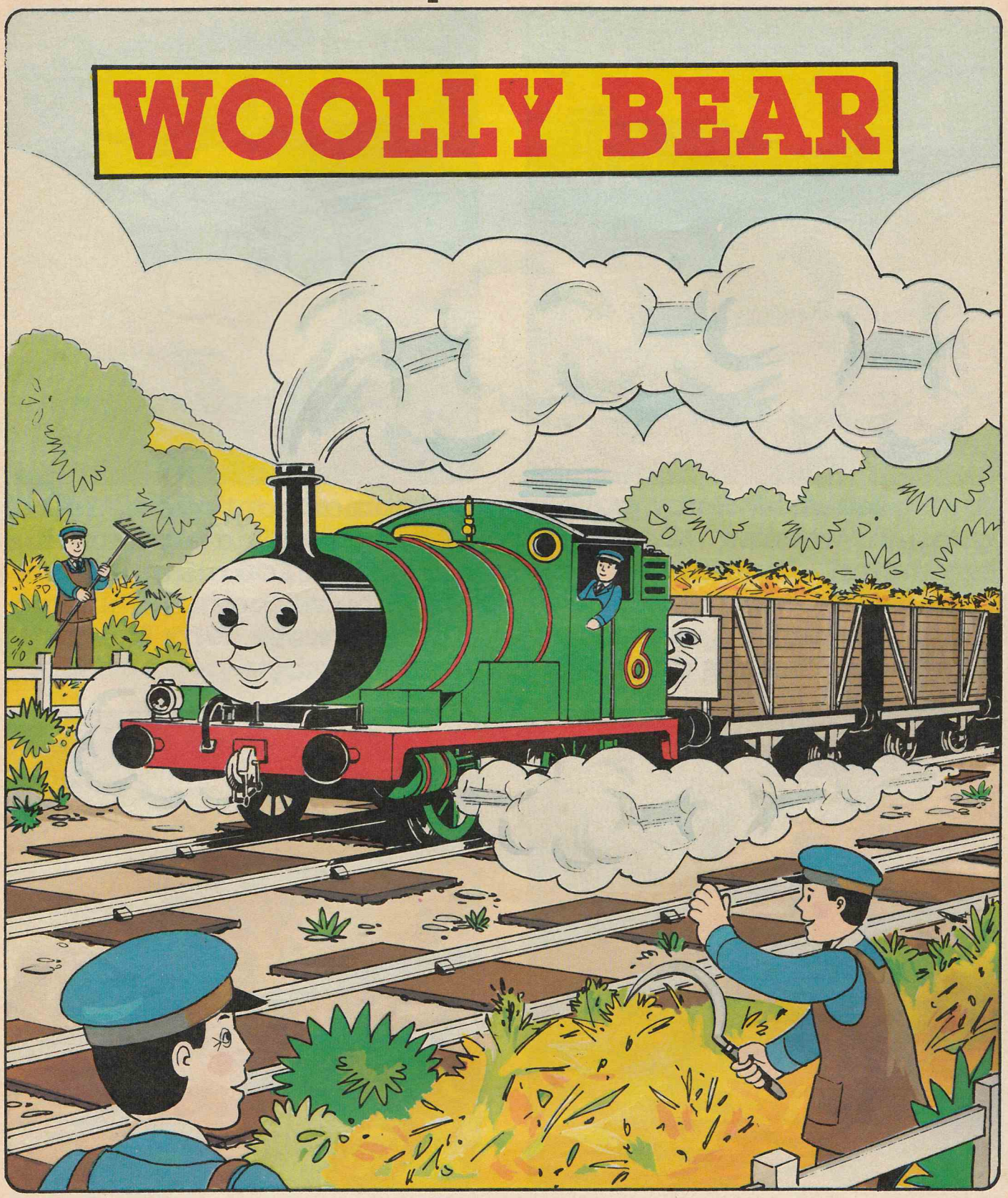
On the back you'll find all sorts of interesting facts about your favourite engines, some valuable information about the Fat Controller, a big puzzle – and lots of splendid pictures!



Only 99p!

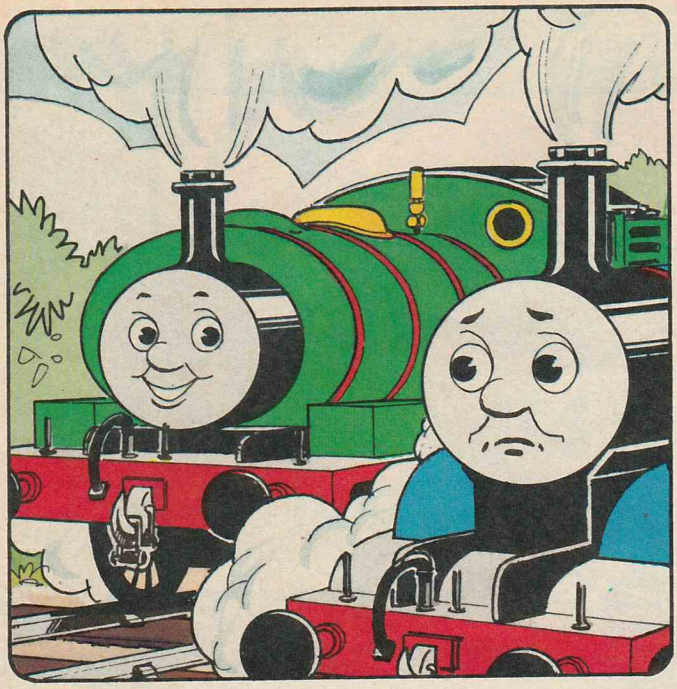
©William Heinemann Ltd 1988 © Britt Allcroft (Thomas) Ltd 1988 © William Heinemann Ltd 1984, 1986 © Britt Allcroft (Thomas) Ltd 1984, 1986

A listen and look story!

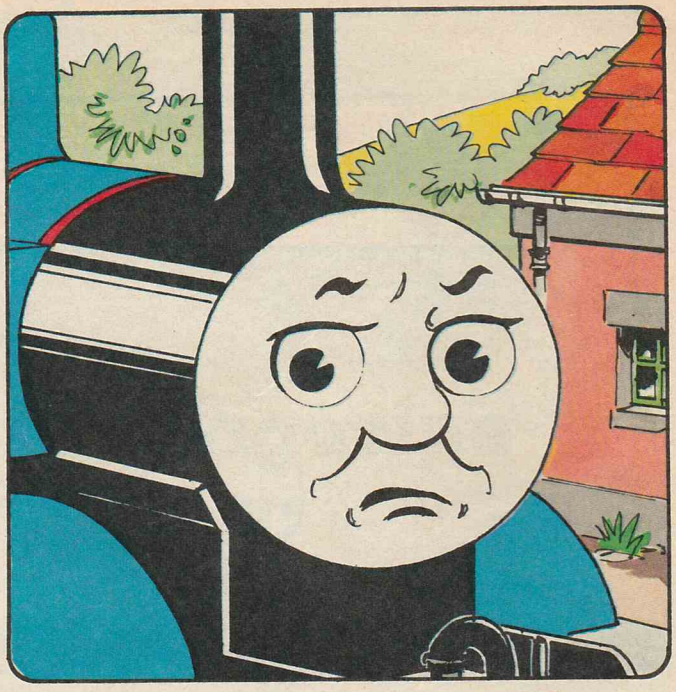


1. In the summer the gangers cut the long grass on the line-side. They rake it into heaps to dry in the sun. Then Percy stops where they have been cutting.

2. The men load up his empty wagons with hay, and Percy pulls the wagons back to the station. Toby then takes them to the hills for the farmers to feed their stock.



3. "Wheeeeesh!" Percy gave a ghostly whistle. "Don't be frightened, Thomas! It's only me!" he laughed. "Your ugly fizz is enough to scare anyone," said Thomas cheekily.

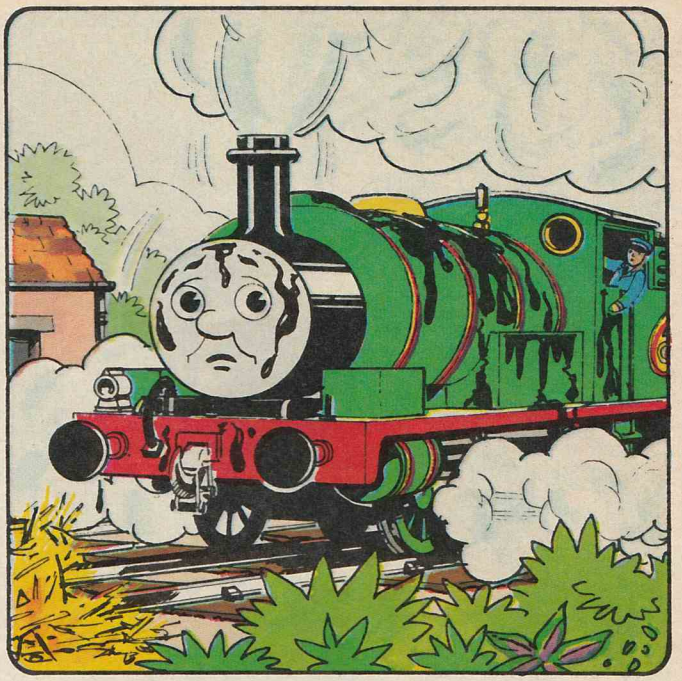


4. Thomas continued, "You're like a green caterpillar with red stripes! You crawl like one too. You've been late every day this week." "It's the hay," replied Percy.

5. "I can't help that," said Thomas. "Time's time, and the Fat Controller relies on me to keep it. I can't keep time if you crawl in the hay till all hours." Percy was cross.

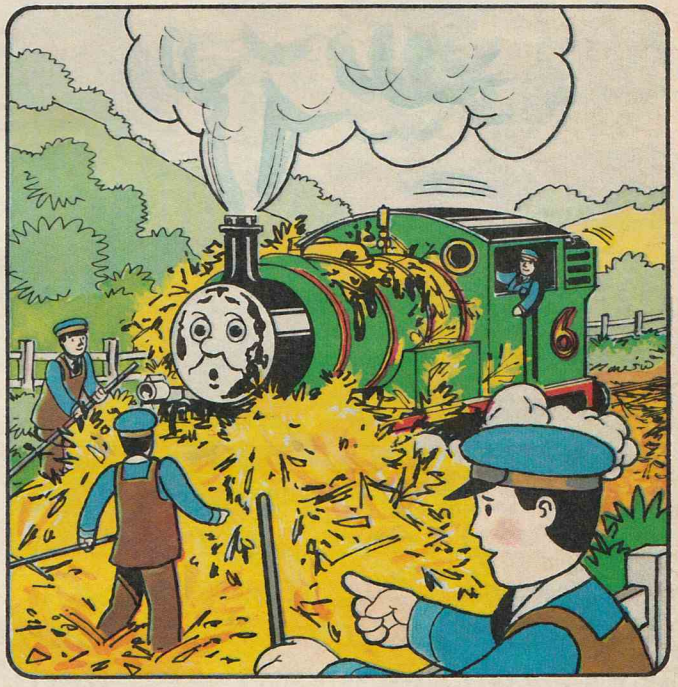
6. "Green caterpillar!" he fumed. "Indeed! Everyone says I'm **handsome.** What's it to Thomas if I run a few minutes late? He can always catch up time further on."

7. All the same, he and his Driver decided to start home early. Then came trouble. **Crash!** A crate of treacle was upset all over Percy. He was cross and **very** sticky!



8. Poor Percy puffed away. The wind was blowing fiercely. "My goodness!" exclaimed the Driver. The wind caught the piled hay, tossing it up over the track.

9. The line ahead sloped upwards. "Take a run at it, Percy," his Driver advised. Percy gathered speed. But the hay made the rails slippery and his wheels wouldn't grip.



10. Time after time he would stall with spinning wheels and had to stop until the line ahead had been cleared before he could start again. Everyone was waiting.

11. Meanwhile Thomas seethed impatiently. "Ten minutes late! Passengers will complain, and the Fat Controller . . ." he muttered on. Then they all saw Percy, and they laughed and shouted. "Look what has crawled out of the hay!" teased Thomas. "Talk about hairy caterpillars!" "What's wrong?" asked Percy. "I'm sorry I'm late."

12. When Percy got home, his Driver showed him what he looked like in a mirror. "Bust my buffers!" exclaimed Percy. "No wonder they all laughed at me! Please clean me up before Toby comes." But it was no good. Thomas told Toby all about it, and they made lots of jokes about "woolly bear" caterpillars and other crawly creatures. **THE END**

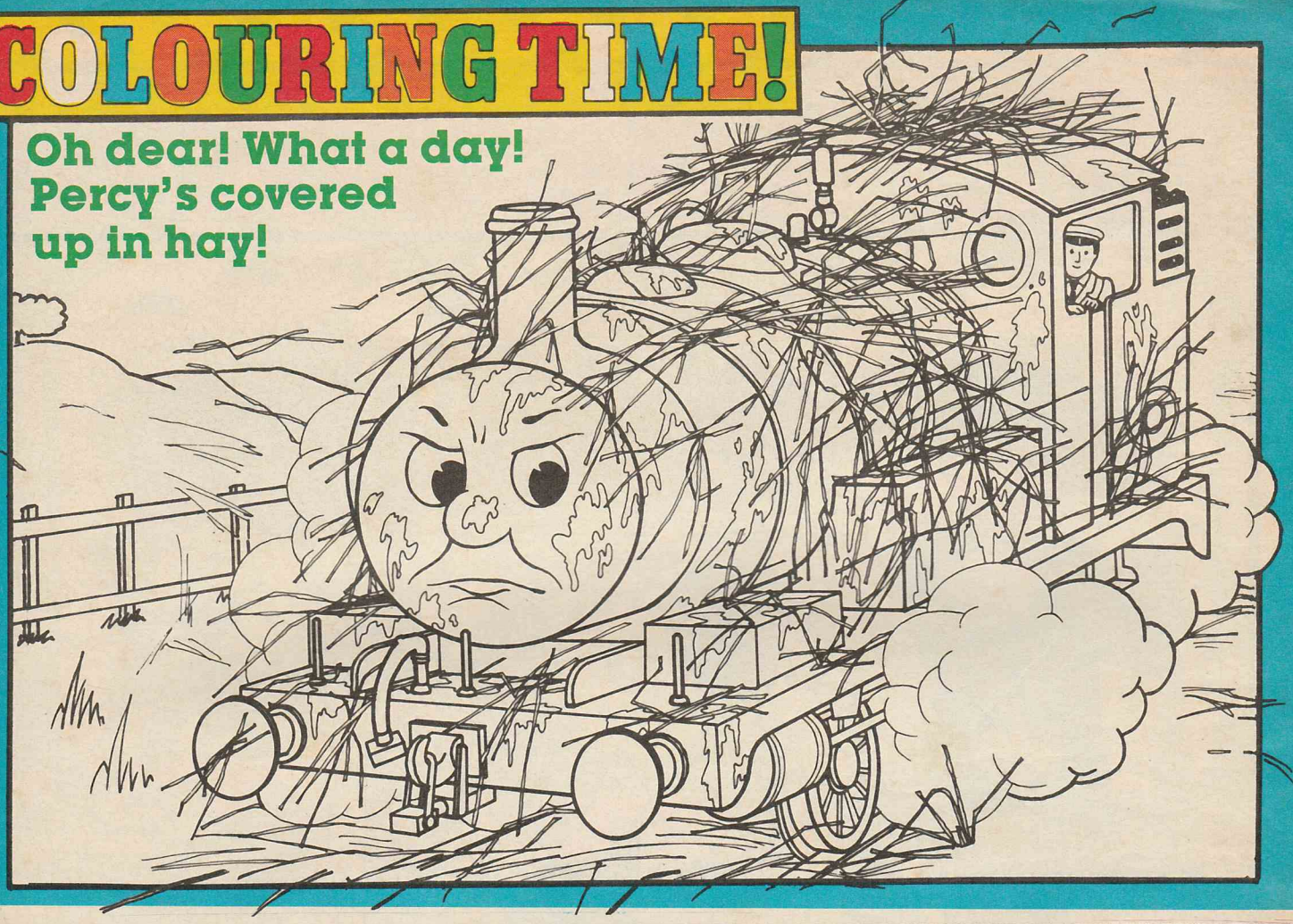
In our next issue: Och aye! It's Donald and Douglas!

JOIN THE DOTS!

Join the dots to complete the picture. Then take a yellow crayon and cover the men with hay!

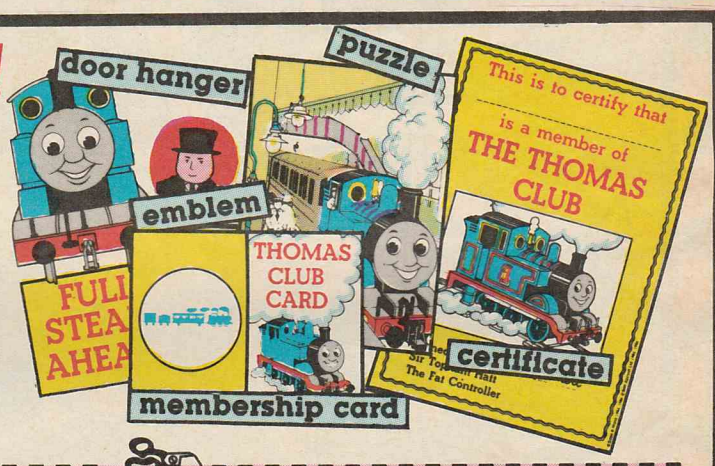
COLOURING TIME!

Oh dear! What a day! Percy's covered up in hay!



News of a great offer!

Take out a subscription to *Thomas the Tank Engine & Friends* and have every issue sent straight to your home every fortnight!



What's more, if you do not already belong to the *Thomas Club*, you will automatically become an immediate member and your exciting Club Pack will be sent to you too!

It costs £9.00 including postage and packing to subscribe to **Thomas the Tank Engine & Friends** for one year. Just fill in the form and send it, together with a cheque or postal order for £9.00 to: *Thomas Subscriptions, Marvel Comics, 23 Redan Place, London W2 4SA.*

Please allow 28 days delivery of your first magazine and Club Pack.

I should like to subscribe to **Thomas the Tank Engine & Friends** for one year and enclose cheque/postal order for £9.00 to include postage and packing. Please enrol me as an immediate member of the **Thomas Club** if I do not already belong!

Name.....

Age..... **Birthday**.....

Address.....

.....

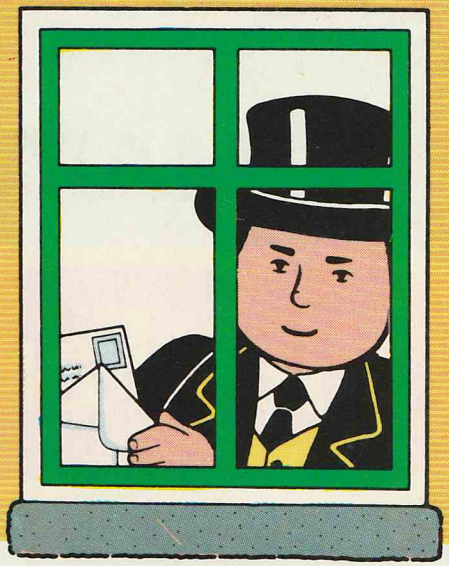
Signature of parent/guardian.....

Thomas Subscriptions, Marvel Comics, 23 Redan Place, London W2 4SA.

Make your cheque or postal order payable to *Marvel Comics Ltd.*

Write to:

THE FAT CONTROLLER



Have you got an amusing story to tell? Do you have a question you would like to ask about Thomas – or any of the other engines? Then why not write to me at the address below! I would be so pleased to hear from you!

STAR LETTER!

Dear Fat Controller,
Every time my mummy buys me Thomas's magazine she cuts out the alphabet page and sticks it in a scrapbook in the right order. When I have all 26 letters I will take it to school.
Love, **Michael,** aged 4.
Jolly good, Michael! Did you like 't' for truck on page 7? It is one of my favourites!
Michael wins a **Thomas the Tank Engine eggcup,** from *Wedgwood.*

HAPPY OR BLUE!

Dear Fat Controller,
When I am happy I am like Thomas because I feel like number one. When I am sad I am like Gordon because I am blue. But my daddy says that if I am naughty I will be like James because I will have a tender behind.
Love from **Christopher,** aged 6.
I can tell your daddy is a bit of a joker, Christopher!

REALLY CLEAN!

Dear Fat Controller,
When my mummy tells me to tidy up my bedroom she says she wants it to be as clean as a whistle. Do your engines all have clean whistles?
Love, **Annabel,** aged 5.
*If the whistles on my engines are not spotlessly clean and shiny, I shall want to know **why not.** After all, they are **very** important, you know.*

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Our very best birthday wishes go to:

Jamie Strange, Ashley Parmenter, Holly Gardner, Mark White, Tony Tighe, Rebecca Steggles, Christopher Snow, Kandida Purnell, Adam Eckersley, Neil Barlow, Craig Bond, Alex Walters, Thomas Greenhalgh, Craig Maxfield, Nicholas Quaife, Phillip Armstrong, Nicholas Brown, David Inglis, Stuart Waite, Laura Skivington, Paul Chell, James Williams, Michael Rawson, Liam, Henrietta Sudworth, Kathryn Briggs, Ray McMonagle and Ann-Marie Mika.
Many happy returns to you all!

If **you'd** like a birthday mention, send details on a postcard, please, at least **8 weeks in advance.** We cannot promise to print all the birthdays we receive, but we will try our best!

Yours,

Sir Topham Hatt.

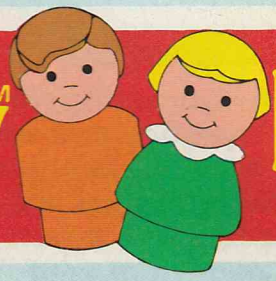
the Fat Controller.

Send your letters to: **The Island of Sodor, c/o Marvel Comics Ltd, 13/15 Arundel Street, London WC2**

Fisher-Price®

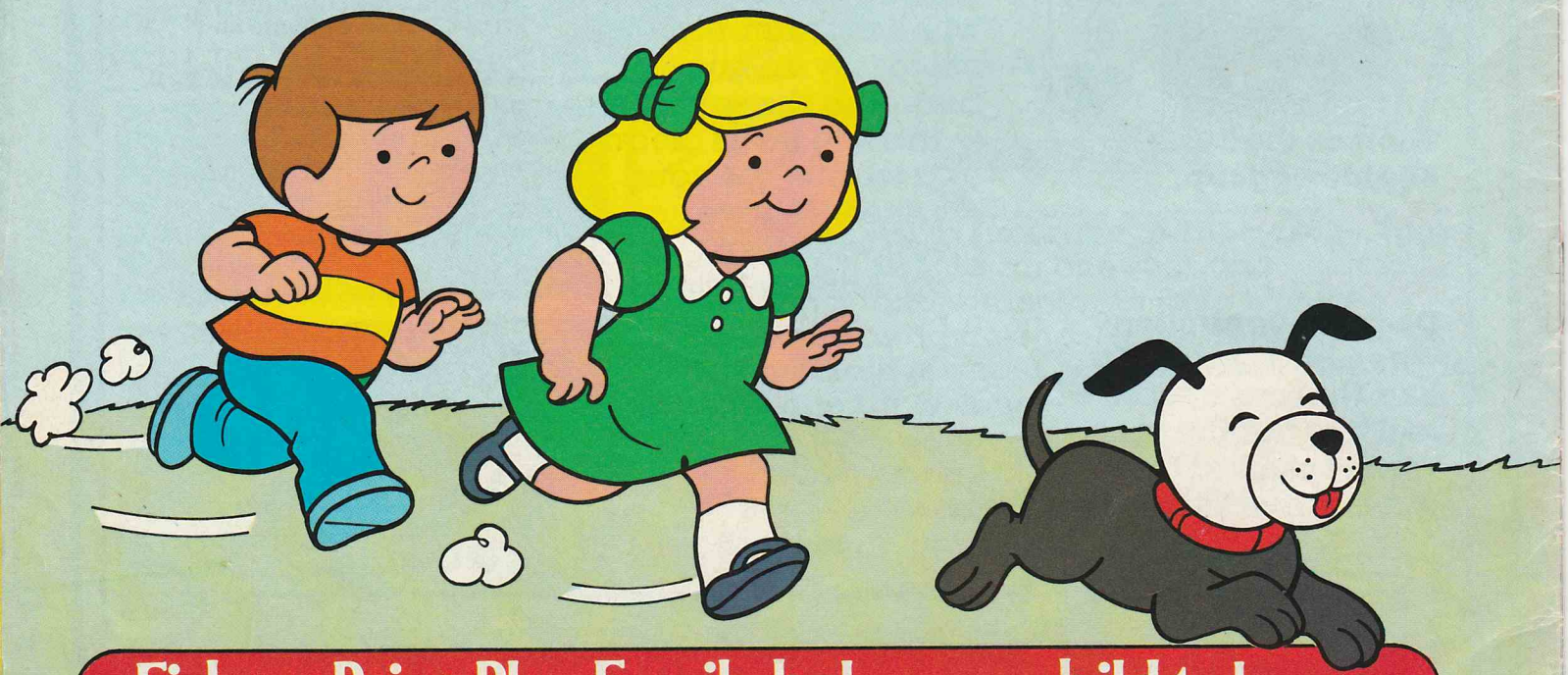
MARVEL PRESENTS

Play Family™ Books



Fisher-Price Play Family Books are a complete pre-school programme, created by Marvel Books and based on the highly successful Fisher-Price Play Family toy range.

This extensive programme offers basic early learning skills through fun and play, and reflects the superb quality you have come to expect from Fisher-Price.



Fisher - Price Play Family™ help your child to learn